

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/670,059

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

Applicant(s)

TOMITA ET AL.

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 3/9/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5,6,8-10,20-27,32,34-37 and 39-51.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 9, 5, 6, 8, and 10 is the inclusion of an agitating member, an attracting section for attracting the agitated foreign material by an attraction bias; the agitating member being electrified in accordance with a voltage applied thereon from the power source; and a power source alternately switching polarity of the electrified agitating member so that the polarity of the electrification of the agitating member is alternately switched over when the agitating member touches a non-image region of the image holding body. This is found in all of claims 9, 5, 6, 8, and 10, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 21, 20, and 22-27 is the inclusion of a cleaning section for cleaning a surface of the electrification roller by removing the foreign material thus attracted onto the electrification roller; the cleaning section is made of a plate or film, which touches the surface of the electrification roller, and wherein the surface of the electrification roller is made of a raw material having a mold-lubricant property. This is found in all of claims 21, 20, and 22-27, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 32 is the inclusion of step of removing foreign material left over on an image holding body of an electronic photography type printing apparatus by electrifying and removing the foreign material on the image holding body, by rendering an electrification roller of the printing apparatus to perform against rotation with respect to the image holding body, electrifying the image holding

Art Unit: 2852

body by an electrification bias and attracting, onto the electrification roller, the foreign material that is on the image holding body; cleaning a surface of the electrification roller by removing the foreign material thus attracted onto the electrification roller. This is found in all of claim 32, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 39, 34-37, and 40-44 is the inclusion of an electrification member that does not touch the surface of the image holding body and is used to attract a left-over developer component that is left over on the image holding body, and electrifying the image holding body, and the electrification member and the image holding body rotates in such a manner that, in a place where a distance between the electrification member and the image holding body is shortest, facing surfaces thereof move in opposite directions. This is found in all of claims 39, 34-37, and 40-44, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 45-51 is the inclusion of a printing method using an electrification member that does not touch the surface of the image holding body; and rotating the electrification member and the image holding body respectively in such a manner that, in a place where a distance between a developer supplying means and the image holding body is shortest, facing surfaces thereof move in opposite directions. The steps of attracting and electrifying includes attracting left-over developer component that is left over on the image holding body after transcription, so as to remove the left-over developer component from the image holding body, and the electrifying being performed to electrify the image holding body. This is found in all of claims 45-51, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Gray can be reached on 571-272-2119 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Susan S. Lee

Application/Control Number: 10/670,059
Art Unit: 2852

Page 5

Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

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